Message Text

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2.1

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMS-01 PER-01 ABF-01 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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O R 240821Z J2 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4866

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPCHMAAG THAI UDORN IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

CINCPAC

CONFIDENTIAL VIENTIANE 4963

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MILI

SUBJ: USDAO VIENTIANE STAFFING

REF: A) VIENTIANE 4761 B) STATE 166856 C) STATE 172320

1. COUNTRY TEAM CONSIDERS CONTINUEED ASSIGNMENT/AVAILABILITY OF DAO U-21 FOR THIS SMALL MISSION IS NOT JUSTIFIED FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. THE 7 PASSENGER CAPACITY OF THE U-21 RENDERS IT OF LITTLE USE IN EVENT MISSION EVACUATION BECOMES NECESSARY.

B. PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WITH RAL EMPLOYEES PRECLUDE UTILIZATION OF WATTAY (VIENTIANE) AIRPORT BY ANY USG AIRCRAFT. WHILE THIS SITUATION IS TRANSITORY, WE DO NOT ENVISION THE LAO PERMITTING NEAR TERM UTILIZATION OF DAO CONFIDENTIAL

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AIRCRAFTAT ANY AIRPORT EXCEPT WATTAY. IN THIS SITUATION OUR INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION CAPABILITY VIA AIRCRAFT WILL BE NEGLIGIBLE.

C. OUR DRASTICALLY REDUCED MISSION SIZE WILL NOT REQUIRE FREQUENT FLIGHTS BETWEEN THAILAND AND VIENTIANE. WE COULD MANAGE QUITE NICELY WITH A ONCE OR TWICE MONTHLY SCHEDULED RUN BY DAO BANGKOK TO SUPPLEMENT AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL AIR (THAI AIRWAYS) BETWEEN BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE.

2. IF DOS AND DOD FEEL TEMPORARY NON-RESIDENT DAO ELEMENT IN THAILAND IS A NECESSITY THROUGH SEPTEMBER, WE RECOMMEND LOCATING ELEMENT AT BANGKOK INSTEAD OF UDORN RTAFB. AS UDORN CONTINUES TO PHASEOUT, THE NON-RESIDENT ELEMENT WOULD EXPERIENCE CONTINUING ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES. MOREOVER, BANGKOK VIA THE 70TH ARMY AVIATION DETACHMENT AND THAI-AM, INC., IS THE ONLY LOCATIONSWHICH CAN PROVIDE SUITABLE U-21 MAINTENANCE CAPABILITIES.

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004

Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: **Disposition Remarks:**

Document Number: 1975VIENTI04963 Document Source: CORE **Document Unique ID: 00**

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: n/a

Film Number: D750255-0299

From: VIENTIANE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197507100/aaaahabs.tel

Line Count: 84

Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE

Office: ACTION EA

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 VIENTIANE 4761 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Authority: izenbei0 Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 21 JUL 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by izenbei0>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN

Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971024 Subject: USDAO VIENTIANE STAFFING

TAGS: APER, LA, US, MILI

To: DIA STATE Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006